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Truan bill to help Texas prepare for military base closures passes Texas Senate

Austin--Senator Carlos F. Truan, D-Corpus Christi, yesterday won Senate passage of SB 1164 asking Texas military bases to help Texas evaluate the military's need for off-base infrastructure improvements to protect Texas military bases from closure.

"We must be proactive in developing strategies to keep our Texas military bases open," Truan said. "This bill gives us a tool to help protect the \$41.3 billion contributed each year to our state's economy from defense-related activities."

U.S. Senator Phil Gramm recently recommended another round of base closures and legislation has been introduced in Congress to authorize two rounds of Base Realignment and Closure Commission hearings in 2003 and 2005.

"We cannot wait until Congress informs us which bases are targeted for closure. We must act now to explore how our state can help optimize the retention, stability and growth of military installations," Truan said.

Under SB 1164, the Office of Defense Affairs would be authorized to request military bases in Texas to help the state evaluate the military's needs critical to their missions and recommend specific state investments. The Office of Defense Affairs would then evaluate and compile the reports and submit its report to the Legislature and the Governor.